(c) what are the herbal plants which have become extinct due to deforestation;

(d) which are the herbal plants that have been endangered due to deforestation; and

(e) what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect and propagate endangered species of medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (d) No assessment has been made regarding loss of herbal plants as a result of deforestation.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation for "plantation of minor forest produce including medicinal plants". An amount of Rs. 4 crores is proposed to be spent during 1990-1991.

Assistance for Ocean Development

1516. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries which have offered assistance to India for Ocean Development;

(b) the details of the offer made; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark have provided assistance to India for Ocean Development.

(b) (i) The Government of Federal Republic of Germany provided a research vessel Sagar Kanya in 1983 under a long term soft loan agreement. The total cost of the ship was approximately Rs. 31 crores. In addition, the Federal Republic of Germany also provided shipboard equipment costing approximately Rs. 9 crores as a grant.

(ii) Another ship Sagar Sampada was acquired in 1984 for research relating to living resources from Denmark, under a long term agreement with Danish Government. The total cost of the vesel was approximately Rs. 15 crores. The Danish Government has also agreed to finance the purchase of a coastal research vessel under a similar loan agreement. Procurement of this coastal vessel is currently being processed.

(c) Since their acquisition, the two research vessels, Sagar Kanya and Sagar Sampada have been primarily deployed for survey and exploration of non-living and living resources in the Exclusive, Economic Zone (EEZ) of India. Additionally, Sagar Kanya has also been deployed for surveying deep sea nodule occurrences and environmental studies in the Central Indian Ocean as well as survey of resources in the EEZ of friendly countries notably Seychelles, Mauritius and Carribean countries.

Inflow of Authentic Data by NIC for the Planning Process

1517. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Information Centre (NIC) had envisa unhindered inflow of authentic data through its own network from all corners of the country for effective conceptulisation of the Planning process;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed its achievements *vis-a-vis* its goals; if so, the difference between the two; and

(c) what are Government's future plans about the National Informatics Centre?